

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) An image heating device comprising:
a heat-generating member comprising a magnetic layer with a certain Curie temperature;
a magnetization member for magnetizing said heat-generating member with an alternating magnetic field, which is arranged in opposition to said heat-generating member;
a nip portion for heating a recording material that carries a toner image with heat from said heat-generating member, while the recording material is being conveyed along said nip portion;

wherein a ratio between an amount of heat generated in said heat-generating member at Curie temperature or higher to an amount of heat generated at room temperature in said heat-generating member is not more than 1 / 2.

2. (original) The image heating device of claim 1, wherein a thickness of said magnetic layer is at least twice a thickness of a skin depth.

3. (original) The image heating device of claim 1, wherein said heat-generating member further comprises a conductive layer with lower resistance than said magnetic layer, which is provided adjacent to said magnetic layer.

4. (original) The image heating device of claim 3, wherein

$$\rho_1 / t_1 \geq \rho_2 / t_2$$

wherein ρ_1 is an intrinsic resistance of said magnetic layer, t_1 is a thickness of said magnetic layer, ρ_2 is an intrinsic resistance of said conductive layer, and t_2 is a thickness of said conductive layer.

5. (original) The image heating device of claim 3, wherein the thickness of said magnetic layer is equivalent to or greater than the skin depth.

6. (original) The image heating device of claim 1, wherein said nip portion is formed by at least a portion of said heat-generating member, and a pressure member pressed against this portion of said heat-generating member.
7. (original) The image heating device of claim 6, wherein at least said magnetic layer of said heat-generating member is a rotatable roller.
8. (original) The image heating device of claim 6, wherein at least said magnetic layer of said heat-generating member is a movable film.
9. (original) The image heating device of claim 8, wherein said film is loop-shaped.
10. (original) The image heating device of claim 6, wherein at least a conductive layer of said heat-generating member is a movable film.
11. (original) The image heating device of claim 1, wherein the nip portion is formed by a movable film contacting said heat-generating member, and a pressure member for pressing against said film.
12. (original) The image heating device of claim 11, wherein said heat-generating member contacts a rear surface of said film.
13. (original) The image heating device of claim 11, wherein said heat-generating member contacts the rear surface of said film from a position upstream of said nip portion to a vicinity of said nip portion, and said magnetization member is provided at the position upstream of said nip portion.
14. (original) The image heating device of claim 11, wherein said heat-generating member is provided on the rear side of said film and contacts a portion of said film, and said magnetization member is provided on a surface side of said film.

15. (original) The image heating device of claim 11, wherein the pressure member comprises a roller with low thermal conductivity provided on the rear surface side of said film and a pressure roller provided on the front surface side of said film.
16. (original) The image heating device of claim 11, wherein said heat-generating member comprises a rotatable roller.
17. (original) An image formation device comprising:
an image formation means for forming an unfixed image onto a recording material; and
a thermal fixing device for thermally fixing the unfixed image on the recording material;
wherein an image heating device according to claim 1 is used as the thermal fixing device.
18. (original) An image heating device comprising:
a heat-generating member comprising a magnetic layer with a certain Curie temperature;
a magnetization member for magnetizing said heat-generating member with an alternating magnetic field, which is arranged in opposition to said heat-generating member;
wherein, when said device is in operation, a temperature at which said heat-generating member stabilizes due to a drop of a relative magnetic permeability of said magnetic layer near said Curie temperature is higher than a temperature where cold offset begins, and
wherein said Curie temperature is selected such that, when the temperature of said heat-generating member is stabilized, a temperature of an outgoing portion of a nip portion is lower than a temperature where hot offset of the toner begins.
19. (original) The image heating device of claim 18, wherein said heat-generating member further comprises a conductive layer with lower resistance than said magnetic layer, which is provided adjacent to said magnetic layer.

20. (original) The image heating device of claim 19, wherein

$$\rho_1 / t_1 \geq \rho_2 / t_2$$

wherein ρ_1 is an intrinsic resistance of said magnetic layer, t_1 is a thickness of said magnetic layer, ρ_2 is an intrinsic resistance of said conductive layer, and t_2 is a thickness of said conductive layer.

21. (original) The image heating device according to claim 18, wherein

$$T_c \leq T_k \leq T_h + 70^\circ\text{C}.$$

wherein T_c is the temperature where cold offset of the toner begins in said nip portion, T_k is the Curie temperature, and T_h is the temperature where hot offset of the toner begins in an outgoing portion of said nip portion.

22. (original) The image heating device according to claim 18, wherein

$$140^\circ\text{C.} \leq T_k \leq 280^\circ\text{C}.$$

wherein T_k is the Curie temperature.

23. (original) The image heating device of claim 18, wherein said nip portion is formed by at least a portion of said heat-generating member, and a pressure member pressed against this portion.

24. (original) The image heating device of claim 23, wherein at least said magnetic layer of said heat-generating member is a rotatable roller.

25. (original) The image heating device of claim 23, wherein at least said magnetic layer of said heat-generating member is a movable film.

26. (original) The image heating device of claim 23, wherein at least said conductive layer of said heat-generating member is a movable film.

27. (original) The image heating device of claim 18, wherein the nip portion is formed by a movable film contacting said heat-generating portion, and a pressure member for pressing against said film.
28. (original) The image heating device of claim 27, wherein said heat-generating member contacts a rear surface of said film.
29. (original) The image heating device of claim 27, wherein said heat-generating member contacts the rear surface of said film from a position upstream of said nip portion to a vicinity of said nip portion, and said magnetization member is provided at the position upstream of said nip portion.
30. (original) The image heating device of claim 27, wherein said heat-generating member is provided on the rear side of said film and contacts a portion of said film, and said magnetization member is provided on a surface side of said film.
31. (original) The image heating device of claim 27, wherein the pressure member comprises a roller with low thermal conductivity provided on the rear surface side of said film and a pressure roller provided on the front surface side of said film.
32. (original) The image heating device of claim 27, wherein said heat-generating member comprises a rotatable roller.
33. (original) The image heating device of claim 27, wherein said film is loop-shaped.
34. (original) An image formation device comprising
an image formation means for forming an unfixed image onto a recording material; and
a thermal fixing device for thermally fixing the unfixed image on the recording material;
wherein an image heating device according to claim 18 is used as the thermal fixing device.

35. (currently amended) An image heating device comprising:
a heat-generating member comprising a magnetic layer;
a magnetization member for magnetizing said heat-generating member with an alternating magnetic field, which is arranged in opposition to said heat-generating member;
a nip portion for heating a recording material that carries a toner image with heat from said heat-generating member, while the recording material is being conveyed along said nip portion; and
a movable film that is separated from the heat generating member, the nip portion being formed between a pressure member and the movable film;
wherein the heat-generating member contacts a contact part of the movable film and is arranged so as to be opposed to the magnetization member at a different position from that of the nip portion, and transmits generated heat to the movable film at the contact part.
~~wherein the nip portion is formed by a movable film separate from the heat-generating member and a pressure member for pressing against said film, and the heat-generating member contacts the film at a different position from that of the nip portion.~~
36. (previously presented) The image heating device of claim 35, wherein said heat-generating member contacts a rear surface of said film.
37. (previously presented) The image heating device of claim 35, wherein said heat-generating member contacts the rear surface of said film from a position upstream of said nip portion to a vicinity of said nip portion, and said magnetization member is provided at the position upstream of said nip portion.
38. (previously presented) The image heating device of claim 35, wherein said heat-generating member is provided on the rear side of said film and contacts a portion of said film, and said magnetization member is provided on a surface side of said film.
39. (previously presented) The image heating device of claim 35, wherein the pressure member comprises a roller with low thermal conductivity provided on the rear surface side of said film and a pressure roller provided on the front surface side of said film.

40. (previously presented) The image heating device of claim 35, wherein said heat-generating member comprises a rotatable roller.